



NEWS RELEASE

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Three southeastern Indiana companies sign on to Indiana@Work

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Three growing southeastern Indiana companies will receive more than \$44,000 in assistance thanks to Indiana@Work, the state's new workforce development initiative, Gov. Joe Kernan announced today.

Clark County's **Eagle Steel** and **Jeffboat LLC** as well as Floyd County's **L & D Mail Masters Inc.** will each receive skills assessments and job profiling services offered through the program.

With the \$44,148 committed from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the companies will collectively profile 15 jobs and provide skills assessments for up to 655 new and existing workers. Announced in January, Indiana@Work aids in developing workforce skills while expanding the state's existing job matching and worker assessment programs and is free of charge to all Hoosier businesses and workers.

"As southeastern Indiana economy starts to expand, we are pleased to see these businesses making a commitment to not only stay and grow in the state, but also improve the skills of their workers," Kernan said. "Through the Indiana@Work process, these businesses will gain a more qualified workforce, their communities will know what skills sets are needed, and existing workers will develop the skills they need to be competitive."

Eagle Steel, which is located in Jeffersonville, has been awarded \$10,638 to assist in filling 10 new job openings. The company will work with the program to assess the skills of 30 people and profile five of the company's occupational categories, including packer, crane operator, shipping and receiving, custodial services, and supervisor. Eagle Steel is a full-service steel processing center located on the Ohio River in Clark County. In addition to steel processing services, the company provides logistical support for its customers with its dedicated truck fleet and maintains a storage facility in Louisville.

"Indiana@Work assures us that we will be able to find qualified applicants while reinforcing the idea of lifelong learning with our current workforce," said Becky Bloom, human resource's manager for Eagle Steel. "We are also more confident that the new candidates will have the skills to succeed in our work environment and that's reassuring to our employees."

Indiana@Work also has dedicated \$22,960 to **Jeffboat LLC**. The Jeffersonville-based company will profile five positions, including rigger, crane operator, maintenance mechanic, maintenance electrician and maintenance machinist. Jeffboat is making a significant investment to expand its operations and create 225 new jobs in the next two years. Up to 600 people will be assessed in order to help fill these job openings. Currently employing 720 people, the Clark County company designs, constructs and repairs barges, towboats and specialty vessels for use throughout

the country's inland waterways. The company has used Indiana@Work previously to profile six positions and assess 500 workers to prepare for its expansion.

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"WorkKeys skill assessments provide valuable insight into an applicant's basic foundation skill level. The data provided by the assessment helps us to select the right person for the available jobs. Assigning new employees to jobs they have the basic skills to perform helps to assure their success, and reduces the cost of their integration into the workplace and work teams," said Donald Bewley, the training manager for Jeffboat,

Twenty-five employees of Floyd County's **L & D Mail Masters Inc.** will receive skill assessments with the \$10,540 pledged by Indiana@Work. Five jobs, including floor manager, sales, computer operator, programmer and accountant, also will be profiled. Employing more than 80 people, L & D Mail Masters is a full-service direct mail processing company located in New Albany. Its diverse group of clientele includes insurance companies, financial institutions, universities, national sales organizations and companies that publish journals for Microsoft products and other software programs. L & D Mail Masters also has an established design department, Design Masters. Learning Masters, another division of the company, is a computer online training division that provides in-house training to its employees and it brings better training opportunities to their local community. To date, L & D's employees have taken over 3500 courses in technology without leaving its facilities.

"We want to thank Indiana@Work for this wonderful opportunity," said Diane Fischer, L & D Mail Masters Inc. president. "It is giving our company another great shot in the arm with training and helping our business to grow."

Indiana@Work, a joint effort between the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the state's WorkOne and WorkOne Express Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to nearly 20,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested more than 300 job profiles since its inception in January.

WorkKeys® skill assessments, which is a comprehensive testing system developed by ACT® that identifies an individual's skill level, are the centerpiece of Indiana@Work. Based on the assessment scores, the next step is to match individuals with available jobs that require similar skills. The program also offers financial support to fill in any skill gaps through training.

Job profiling, the employer segment of Indiana@Work, helps businesses identify skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with existing staff to define the duties and skills needed to perform in each occupation and together they create specific job profiles. Those profiles are then used in the hiring and placement process.

Through its various programs and initiatives, DWD is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates the a statewide job placement service

For more information on this or other DWD programs, visit www.indianaatwork.IN.gov or www.workforce.IN.gov, call 1-888-465-4616, or stop by any WorkOne Center.

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